

# THE ASYLUM

Quarterly Journal of the  
Numismatic Bibliomania Society

[www.coinbooks.org](http://www.coinbooks.org)

Volume 25, No. 2

Spring 2007



"Book hunting is a respectable pursuit, an agreeable pastime, an aid to study—but so are many other pastimes and pursuits. Well it would be if historians of book hunting caught but a little of the graceful simplicity and sincerity of an Isaac Walton or a Gilbert White. But no! for the most part these historians are masses of affectation, boosters of bargains, retailers of prices, never touching the heart or refining the fancy. . . . Sham raptures over rare volumes, and bombastic accounts of by-gone auctions, have never helped to swell the ranks of the noble army of book hunters."



AUGUSTINE BIRRELL

1850-1933

# The Asylum

Vol. 25, No. 2

Consecutive Issue No. 96

## Contents

Editor's Introduction	2
Ezekiel I. Barra and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: "Something About Coins"—and Provenance Joel J. Orosz	3
Who Was Farish Baldenhofer? W. David Perkins	13
Review: <i>Comitia Americana and Related Medals: Underappreciated Monuments to Our Heritage</i> by John W. Adams and Anne E. Bentley Christopher Eimer	25

*Front cover:* Cover of the Ostheimers' copy of the Lester Merkin September 18, 1968, sale catalogue. Inside was a three-page auction settlement and an adding-machine tape providing important pedigree information to connect a number of early silver dollars with the collector W.G. Baldenhofer.

## Editor's Introduction

Some readers have written to enquire about the numbering of the previous issue of *The Asylum*, and in particular why the numbering of what is meant to be a quarterly journal skipped from Volume 24 Number 2 to Volume 25 Number 1. This numbering is the result of a decision made, in consultation with the Board, around the end of December 2006.

The available choices were all somewhat unappealing. One option was to continue the numbering as usual, with the next issue being Volume 24 Number 3; this would keep the numbering sequence intact but would effectively prevent any attempt to keep volumes connected to particular years. Another option was to start a new volume for the new year (and new editorship); this would preserve the relationship between volumes and years but create the appearance of a gap in the numbering sequence. Perhaps the simplest option would have been to call Volume 24's second issue Numbers 2-4, but that issue had already been sent to the printer.

The consensus, therefore, was for the second choice, to start a new Volume 25 for 2007. So all of you readers who have wondered whither Volume 24 Numbers 3 and 4 have disappeared now know the answer.

David Yoon

# EZEKIEL I. BARRA AND HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW: “SOMETHING ABOUT COINS”—AND PROVENANCE

*Joel J. Orosz*

Listen collectors and you shall know  
Of a coin book owned by Longfellow.  
Yes, the poet whose muse spoke so clear  
In “The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere,”  
Owned a library numismatic,  
Or, to be somewhat less emphatic,  
A single pamphlet to gird his loins:  
E. I. Barra’s “Something About Coins.”

Lest you conclude that the subtitle of this article should be “Something About Doggerel,” let me say that it does focus on a numismatic publication, and a very rare and significant one at that: the very first numismatic title emitted from the nation’s west coast, Ezekiel I. Barra’s “Something About Coins.” Ironically enough, this pamphlet, which ran off the press in San Francisco during the year 1863, spent most of the next fourteen decades in the eastern metropolises of Boston and New York City before migrating, fittingly enough, to a city closer to the shores of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s “Gitche Gume.”

Reconstructing the wanderings of Barra’s pioneering pamphlet from 1863 to 2006 made for a fascinating search project, and I hope, for an interesting read; a biblionumismatic detective story with a variegated cast of characters: an argonaut of ‘49, a beloved American poet, a Beacon Hill Brahmin, a brash Big Apple bibliophile, another bookish Bostonian, and finally, a curious Kalamazooan.

The story begins, of course, with an intrepid Gold Rush argonaut, Ezekiel I. Barra. Like thousands of his countrymen, Barra was gripped



by gold fever in 1849, and sailed from Philadelphia for a town until only lately known as Yerba Buena, namely, San Francisco. Being blessed with a facile pen, Barra wrote in 1893 a highly readable, although not factually bulletproof, book about the voyage: *A Tale of Two Oceans, A New Story by an Old Californian: An Account of a Voyage from Philadelphia to San Francisco Around Cape Horn, 1849-50, Calling at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Juan Fernandez in the South Pacific*. It is a bulletproof fact, however, that Barra was the first to sell a coin collection of any consequence (it included a complete date set of large cents) on the west coast, at the auction house of L. Keller, in San Francisco, on February 19-20, 1866. (Q. David Bowers, as usual, has written the best account of Barra's numismatic exploits; see pages 160-67 of his *A California Gold Rush History*).

In 1863, precisely thirty years before he wrote *A Tale of Two Oceans*, Barra wrote a small (sextodecimo) pamphlet of 31 pages, with a much shorter title: "Something About Coins." Partly a series of history lessons, partly a description of coins in the author's collection, partly a plug for the hobby of numismatics, Barra's pamphlet, modest in both size and content, made but little impression on the emerging field of U.S. numismatics. Its existence was noted by Emmanuel J. Attinelli on page 103 of *Numisgraphics*, but few copies of "Something About Coins" seem to have survived; by the twentieth century, it had become a *rara avis* in the numismatic bibliophile's aviary. Barra's pamphlet was not present in the George Fuld, Essex Institute, Armand Champa, Katen Library, or Harry Bass sales, nor was it listed in Charles Davis's *American Numismatic Literature*. By the turn of the twenty-first century, Barra's precedent-setting work seemed one of those ethereal entries—akin to the fabled large paper edition of *Numisgraphics* itself—that had existed in Attinelli's day, but had since regrettably gone extinct.

Like the coelacanth, however, "Something About Coins" proved to be a "living fossil," and it was the brash Big Apple bibliophile who demonstrated that at least one copy was still among the living. John J. Ford was a man of many parts—an inventor, a salesman, an operative for Army intelligence during the Second World War—almost literally a tinker, tailor, soldier, and spy. Like his vast collection of coins, medals, and paper money, his superb collection of numismatic literature was secreted first in his natal city of New York, then at his retirement home

in Arizona, before finally surfacing in George Frederick Kolbe's sales of the Ford library in 2004 and 2005. Many an obscure publication emerged into the marketplace for the first time in decades, and among them was a surviving copy of "Something About Coins."

Alas, though, it was a wounded survivor, for according to Kolbe's description for lot 167 of his sale on June 1, 2004, an inscription had been removed on page 2, with resulting loss of text on page 3. He also noted that there was a void in the middle of the front cover, which was partially covered, front and back, by two paper cutouts of the Boston Numismatic Society (BNS) seal. Defaced though it may have been, rare is rare (Kolbe noted that this was the first copy he had encountered during his 39 years as a numismatic bibliophile), and "Something About Coins" was purchased by the bookish Bostonian, John Weston Adams, and added to his incomparable collection of Attinelliana.

A little more than two years later, however, Adams elected to sell his aggregation of Attinelli esoterica, and in Kolbe's Sale 101, October 19, 2006, Barra's modest pamphlet made its second appearance on the auction block in two years. It was captured by the author of this article, the curious Kalamazooan. That curiosity begat a fascinating, and unexpectedly poetic, quest for the provenance of my copy of "Something About Coins."

The immediate impetus for reconstructing the ownership chain was that void in the front wrapper, or rather, the intriguing pair of paper seals of the BNS, which partially concealed this insult to the pamphlet's integrity. The missing portion of the cover, shaped like a transposed outline of the island of Cuba, was not completely covered by the BNS seals, glued back-to-back, but at least they did serve the purpose of preventing the gash from spreading.

The BNS seals also served another useful purpose, that of evoking the memory of the Beacon Hill Brahmin, for if any one man in the nineteenth century personified the BNS, it was William Sumner Appleton. Born in 1840, the product of his father Nathan's second marriage, William was in the fortunate position of being able to devote his life to collecting and scholarship. He joined the BNS as a charter member upon its formation in 1860, and was promptly elected its secretary, a post he filled faithfully for decades. Appleton's coin collection was rumored to be larger than those of all the other BNS members combined, and his



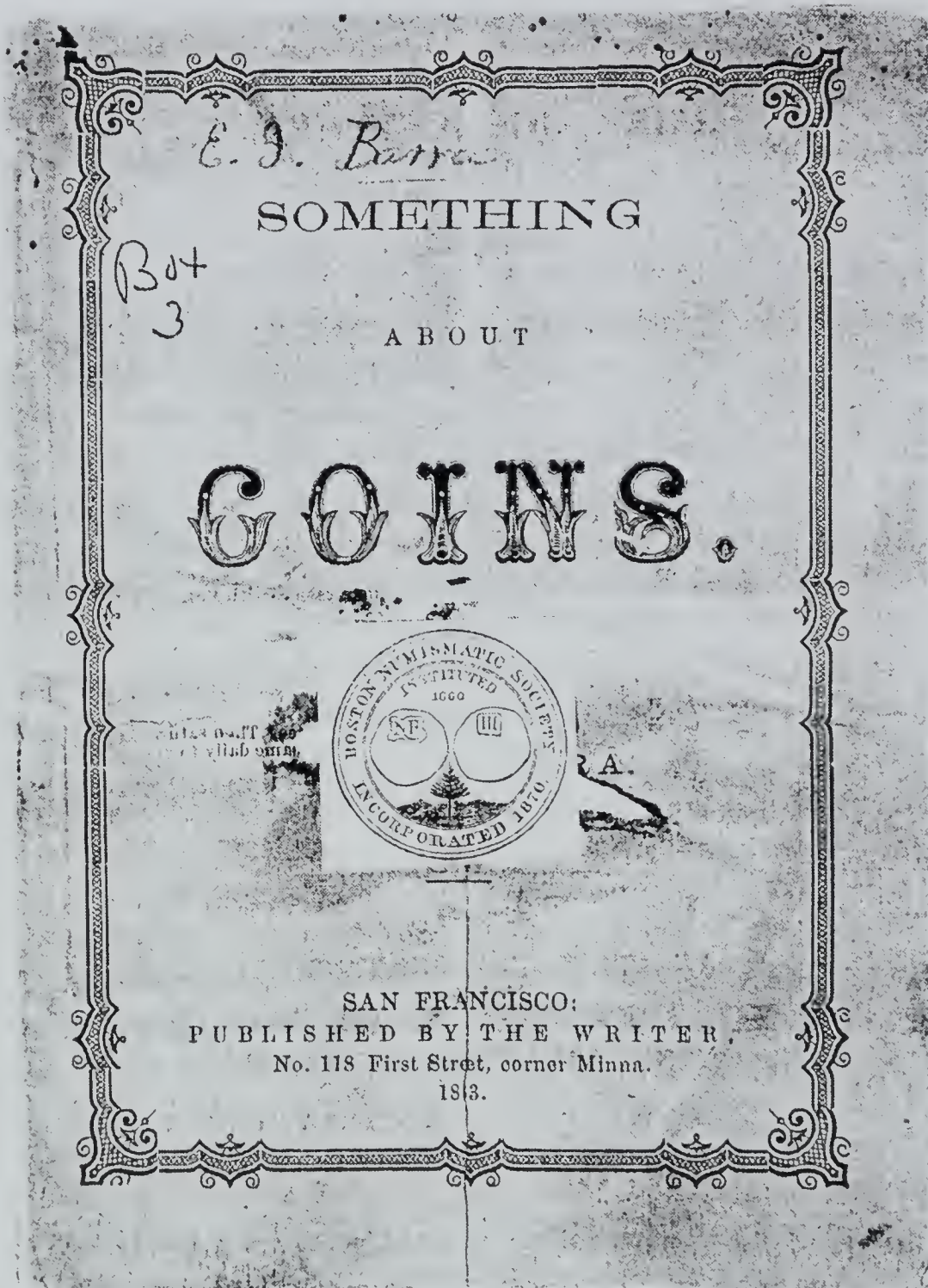


Figure 1. Cover of "Something About Coins" showing damage covered by BNS seal.

numismatic library was similarly outsized. Might he have been the one to place the BNS seals on either side of the wounded wrapper?

I turned, therefore, to Thomas Elder's sale of the William Sumner Appleton library, held on May 10, 1913. Sure enough, lot 319 offered a copy of "Something About Coins," described as "Rare pamphlet, first



I have seen or heard of.” This was significant, for Tom Elder had been a dealer for a decade by 1913, and an active one, at that. That Barra’s work was completely new to him, as it was to Kolbe some years later, underscores the work’s great rarity. The remainder of the description, however, provided quite a surprise: “Bears autograph; ‘Professor Longfellow. Respects of E. I. Barra.’”

Whether Barra was acquainted with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow before he left the East for the gold fields is an open question. Barra could certainly have admired Longfellow from afar, however, for in 1863 the poet was a Harvard professor with many celebrated works in print, including “The Village Blacksmith,” “The Song of Hiawatha,” and “Paul Revere’s Ride,” so Barra may have inscribed a copy to him without ever having encountered him in person. But the inscription created a complication in the effort to trace my copy of “Something About Coins” to Appleton, for my copy most definitely does not contain an inscription by the author to Longfellow. Then I recalled the missing fragment from the interior page.

Just as Kolbe had described, the top of the second page (the first after the title page), was missing an irregular piece from its top, about one inch at its widest point, the result of a clean tear. Upon examining the pamphlet closely, I noticed another rarity about this rarity: Kolbe had made a slight error in describing it. According to his description in both the Ford Sale and his 101st sale, the missing piece was on page 2, with a slight loss of text on page 3. In “Something About Coins,” the title page is counted as page 1; its blank verso (where John J. Ford’s conjoined “JF” bookplate resides), is page 2, so the lost portion is on page 3, with the loss of text on page 4.

A more germane point than pagination is that fragments and “ghosts” of the estrayed inscription remain in the pamphlet today. The fragments consist of a downstroke and a downloop in brown ink, both found beneath the tear on page 3. The “ghosts” are found on page 5, where there are pressure indentations and numerous points and short lines of bleed-through. These relics of the now-lost inscription are arranged into two discernable lines. The first letter on the top line appears, from the bleed-through on page 5, to have contained a loop, as in the top of a capital “P.” The last three letters in the last word of the bottom line appear (again, from the bleed-through), to be “ira,” which could represent

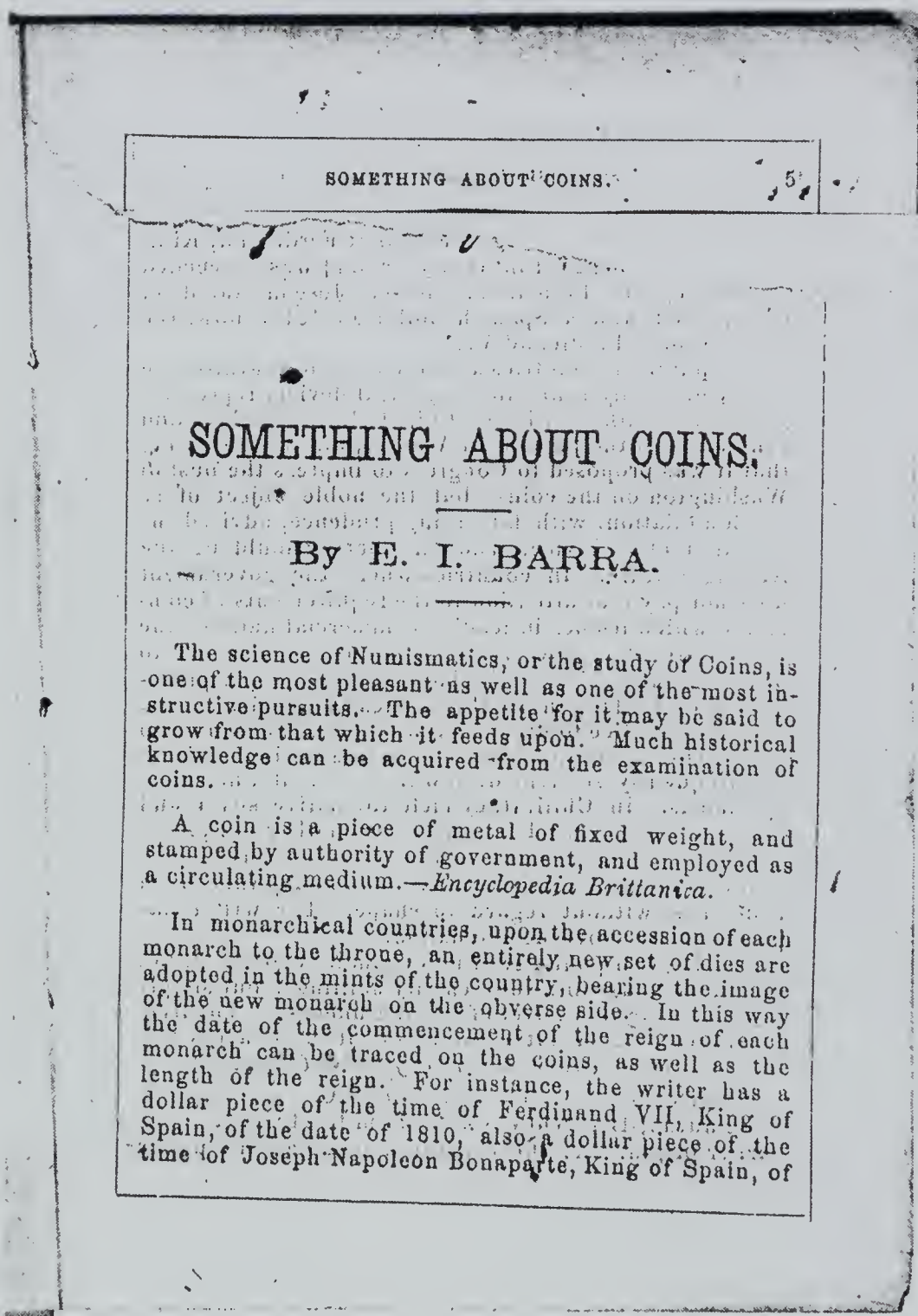


Figure 2. Page 3 of "Something About Coins" showing where the inscription was torn off.

parts of the last three letters of "Barra." The fragments also are very suggestive. The downstroke at the beginning of the bottom line could be from a capital "R," and the downloop from the same line could be from the "f" of the word "of." There can be no doubt that this copy of

"Something About Coins" was inscribed at one time, but the surviving fragments and "ghosts" are not conclusive. We can say, however, that the surviving data are certainly consistent with the inscription as Elder had copied it, and the size of the piece excised from page 3 is appropriate for a two-line inscription.

Does this mean that the Appleton copy in the Elder sale is the very one that John J. Ford later purchased and which then appeared in the two Kolbe sales? The sheer rarity of "Something About Coins" argues in favor of that proposition. Weighing against it is the fact that Elder did not mention the BNS seals on the front cover. Elder, however, was notorious for his terse cataloguing descriptions, so failing to mention the seals would be right in character. In addition, the fact that the copy in the Elder sale was inscribed, and the copy in the Kolbe sales had been inscribed, suggests that they could be the same. Add to that evidence provided by the fragments and ghosts, and by the appropriate amount of space occupied by the original inscription, and the cumulative evidence does not prove, but certainly suggests, that the Appleton copy and my copy are one and the same.

Moreover, the very fact that the inscription was torn from the pamphlet implies that it was the dedication described by Elder: "Professor Longfellow. Respects of E. I. Barra." These dedicatory lines can be read in two ways. While most would read it (as I do), as an inscription written by the author to the poet, it could also be interpreted as lines written by Longfellow himself. If read in that way, an autograph collector could have removed the inscription in the belief that it was written in the great poet's hand.

While some doubts remain about whether Appleton's copy is the same as mine, there can be little uncertainty as to why "Something About Coins" would have been transferred from Longfellow to Appleton. According to Louise Hall Tharp's *The Appletons of Beacon Hill*, in 1843 the poet married Appleton's half-sister, Frances Elizabeth (Fanny) Appleton. She predeceased Longfellow, and he himself died in 1882. As a brother-in-law by marriage, and as the family numismatist, William Sumner Appleton would be the logical person to inherit "Something About Coins." On the other hand, Longfellow, who does not seem to have had any other predilection for coins, may have given the pamphlet to his brother-in-law earlier, perhaps as early as 1863.



While there is no doubt that Appleton owned a copy of the pamphlet, there is some question about whether he owned it continuously, or whether it took a temporary detour to the BNS library before coming back for the Elder sale in 1913. The possible trajectories become a bit complicated, and to tell the story, it will be necessary to revisit an old "Printer's Devil" column by the author of this article, namely "Colburn's Cogan: An Exercise in Provenance," published in the Winter 2001 issue of *The Asylum*.

In that column, I reconstructed the ownership chain of a large paper copy of Edward Cogan's May 21-22, 1860, sale of the Alfred Taylor collection, beginning with this copy being given to the BNS by Jeremiah Colburn in 1860, very nearly up to my purchase of this piece in 1998. During my research, I discovered that the BNS had fallen on hard times during the 1890s, due to excessive concern about provenance (that of their prospective new members, not of coins or books), and in 1898, its dwindling membership voted to donate its cabinet of coins to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and its library to the Boston Public Library, along with \$300 to each institution to provide for the maintenance of the collections. In recognition of Appleton's status as a founding member, and also for his 38 years of faithful service as Secretary, however, the BNS allowed him to reserve any of the Society's coins or books that he wanted for his personal collection. The BNS records show that he chose five books and a dozen pamphlets.

If Appleton had kept "Something About Coins" continuously from the time he got it from Longfellow until his death in 1903 (and his heirs kept it in his estate until the 1913 Elder sale), then the BNS story is an irrelevant aside. If, on the other hand, Appleton had donated it to the BNS library sometime after getting it from Longfellow (a possibility made plausible not only by the BNS seals on the cover, but also by the penciled notations on the cover of Barra's name and "Box 3"), then it was one of the dozen pamphlets he reserved for his own library in 1898. Interestingly, the BNS seals on the front wrapper could provide evidence for either scenario, for they could have been placed there by the BNS librarian, or by Appleton, who as secretary would have had ready access to a supply of them.

Other mysteries cling to Barra's slim pamphlet. Who purchased it in the 1913 Elder sale? From whom, and when, did John J. Ford acquire



it? And, most intriguing, who was the biblioclast who ripped out Barra's inscription to Longfellow? We know that the vandalism occurred some time between the Elder sale in 1913 and the first Kolbe sale in 2004. We can absolve, I believe, the only suspect that we can identify by name: John J. Ford. Although there is no arguing that Ford could at times behave outrageously, anyone who remembers, as I do, his obsessive concern for the conservation of his books-his careful provision of archival storage conditions, his careful mending with methyl cellulose Japanese paper, his insistence on using gloves to handle his volumes-make it inconceivable that he would defile one of his own pamphlets. I am certain, therefore, that the inscription had been removed before Ford acquired it.

After carefully weighing all of the evidence at hand, therefore, this much of the provenance of "Something About Coins" can be reconstructed:

- 1.1863: Inscribed by Barra to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- 2.1863-1882: Passes, either by gift or by inheritance, from Longfellow to his half brother-in-law, William Sumner Appleton
- 3.Ca. 1884, possibly donated by Appleton to BNS library; if so, reclaimed by him in 1898 when most of that library is donated to the Boston Public Library. Alternatively, it may have been in Appleton's library continuously for the balance of his life
- 4.1903: Enters Appleton's estate; possibly inherited, along with the rest of his numismatic library, by a relative or a friend
- 5.1913: Appears as lot 319 of Thomas Elder's sale of the William Sumner Appleton Library, May 10, 1913.
- 6.1913-ca. 1950s: One or more unknown owners. During these years, inscription on p. 3 is removed, causing loss of text on p. 4.
- 7.Ca. 1950s: Acquired by John J. Ford, Jr. from an unknown source, with his conjoined "JF" bookplate on verso of title page
- 8.2004: Appears as lot 167 in George Frederick Kolbe's June 1, 2004, sale of the John J. Ford Library; acquired by John Weston Adams
- 9.2006: Appears as lot 708 in George Frederick Kolbe's 101st sale, October 19, 2006; acquired by Joel J. Orosz

Ezekiel I. Barra's "Something About Coins" is a memorable example of numismatic Americana by any lights; it is rare in absolute terms, significant

for its pioneering West Coast origin, and romantic for its linkages to “the days of old, the days of gold, the days of ’49.” Its newly-uncovered provenance definitely adds more luster, from its presentation by the author to one of America’s most beloved poets (the first poet from the United States to be honored in Westminster Abbey’s celebrated “Poet’s Corner”), to its ownership by at least three great numismatists, William Sumner Appleton, John J. Ford, and John Weston Adams, whose years of activity span most of the history of the coin hobby in the United States. Despite the damage it has suffered, despite the vandalism that it has endured, “Something About Coins” has the dignity that comes with a respectable ancestry and an enduring run in our unforgiving world. Now completely deacidified, it is being preserved by its current steward, for the delight and edification of the future links in its ownership chain. Just as there is “something about coins,” there is also something about provenance, something about the eventful past of this battered but unbowed pamphlet that will speak to its owners yet unknown and unborn, when at last they are ready to assume their place in its history.

## Who Was Farish Baldenhofer?

*W. David Perkins*

In November 1955 Stack's offered for sale the *Farish Baldenhofer Collection of U.S. Coins*. The first page inside the catalogue cover reads, "Farish Baldenhofer *et al* / United States Gold, Silver and Copper Coins / To be sold at public auction sale November 11, 12, 1955." The heading on the first page of the sale of the First Session also notes, "The Farish Baldenhofer Catalogue."

Unfortunately, no background information is given in the catalogue as to who was "Farish Baldenhofer." Was Farish Baldenhofer a real person, or a made-up name for the sale?

My primary interest in acquiring a copy of this sale catalogue in 1996 was to learn more about the Baldenhofer collection of early United States silver dollars. I had come across the Baldenhofer name associated with a number of the early dollars in the Superior Stamp and Coin Co., Inc., *A.N.A. AUCTION SALE August 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 1975* ('75 ANA Sale). There was an extensive run of early dollars by die marriage, virtually complete by Bolender number (M. H. Bolender, *The United States Early Silver Dollars from 1798-1803*, first published in 1950). The majority of these were from the Ostheimer collection. Many of the Ostheimer coins were also pedigreed to the W. G. Baldenhofer collection.

The first session in the Stack's 1955 *Farish Baldenhofer Collection* sale included a nice run of Colonial coins; U.S. half cents including three 1793 half cents, examples of the rare 1810 and 1811 half cents along with four proof (only) specimens; a 1799 Large Cent called "extremely fine" and very rare; Small Cents, two-cent and three-cent pieces; nickels, dimes, and quarter dollars, including an 1827 quarter in proof. The second session opened with U.S. commemorative half dollars; early U.S. half dollars including mint-state 1796 and 1797 examples along with a proof-like 1838-O rarity and Barber half dollars.

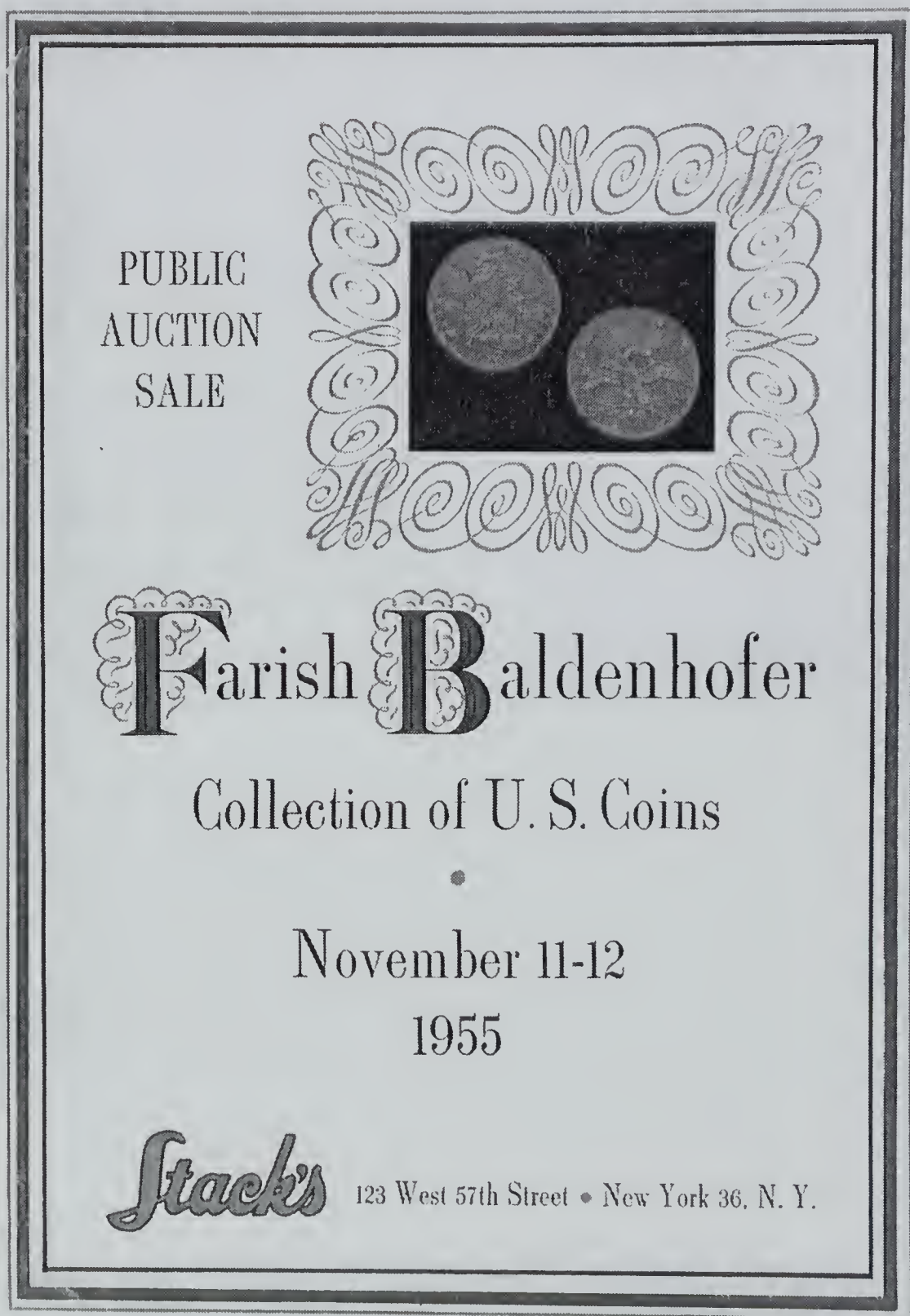


Figure 1. Front cover of the November 11-12, 1955, Stack's sale of the *Farish Baldenhofer Collection of U.S. Coins*. The prices realized for this sale are bound with the same cover as was used for the sale catalogue.



The Liberty Walking half dollars started with lot 869. This was the first mention in the sale of Mr. Baldenhofer. It noted,

Note: The following coins were assembled after many years of careful searching by Mr. Baldenhofer. He felt that this set was about the best one he could find and as the lots indicate, he went all out to acquire the finest specimens obtainable.

Baldenhofer's duplicate set of Liberty Walking half dollars commenced with lot 911. The introduction to this set noted,

Note: Mr. Baldenhofer, after completing the painstaking task of building one set of Liberty Walking Half Dollars, decided to try to duplicate his first feat. The following coins were the result of his second effort. He also realized that with the ever advancing market in these Half Dollars they, too, were a good investment....

I was disappointed to learn that this 1955 Baldenhofer sale had only nineteen early (1794-1803) silver dollars. This comprised what most numismatists would call a "date and major type set." In addition, the condition and rarity of this group of coins was not comparable to the coins attributed to Baldenhofer in the '75 ANA Sale.

Seated and Trade Dollars followed the early silver dollars. The third session opened with commemoratives and patterns, followed by gold. U.S. eagles were offered starting with lot 1427. The cataloger noted,

The following group of early \$10.00 gold pieces is one of the finest groups every offered at Public Auction. Mr. Baldenhofer endeavored to assemble as many varieties of these early gold coins as was possible. Quality was uppermost in his endeavors.

It does not appear that the early dollars in this 1955 sale were consigned by Baldenhofer, and if they were, this was surely not his primary die-variety set. So the question remained as to what had happened to Baldenhofer's early dollar die-variety collection. When and where was it dispersed? Privately, or at public auction?

From the '75 ANA Sale one can see that Baldenhofer had quite a few early dollars, including some extreme rarities. For example, Baldenhofer discovered the extremely rare 1798 B-32 dollar. His discovery, along with a photo of the discovery specimen, was featured in an article in the June 1957 issue of *The Numismatist*, page 651. Frank Stirling, a

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, early dollar specialist, authored the article at Mr. Baldenhofer's request. This specimen of the 1798 B-32 dollar was first offered publicly as lot 853 in the '75 ANA Sale, with the pedigree, "Ex. Baldenhofer, Ostheimer." From this sale it became clear that the Ostheimer collection included many of the early dollars formerly in the Baldenhofer collection, but overall only about half of the total number of early dollar die marriages known at the time. If Baldenhofer collected by die marriage, as it appears he did, where are the other silver dollars from his collection and if they did, how and where did the Ostheimers acquire them?

I double-checked in John W. Adams' *United States Numismatic Literature*, and this 1955 Stack's sale was the only mention of Baldenhofer. I was aware that Lester Merkin's *Public Auction Sale—September 18, 1968* (Merkin '68 Sale) had a number of Gobrecht and Seated Dollars pedigreed to Baldenhofer. On page 54 the cataloger noted, "Most proofs 1836-73 were from the Baldenhofer collection." But there was no reference to the 1955 Farish Baldenhofer sale, nor did the pedigrees match in these two sales. None of the early dollars in the Merkin '68 Sale were mentioned as being from the Baldenhofer collection, nor pedigreed to the same.

From the pedigrees in the '75 ANA Sale and the Merkin '68 Sale it became apparent that Baldenhofer had a large number of silver dollars that were not part of the 1955 Stack's sale. The question still remained as to how the Ostheimers had acquired part or possibly all of Baldenhofer's silver dollars (prior to these 1968 and 1975 public auction sales). It was time for serendipity, or at least a little luck.

I'm not sure of the exact date, but sometime in the early 1990s Art Rubino, a Santa Fe, New Mexico, rare book dealer, was set up at a Denver coin show. At some point I noticed some tall bookshelves located in a back row of the show. I introduced myself to Art. I remember asking Art if he had any auction catalogues; he said most were in boxes on the floor, under the other tables.

I looked through some of the boxes and soon came across a familiar and favorite sale catalogue of mine, a copy of the Merkin '68 Sale. And right under it was another, but this one at once caught my eye. At the top was written "Mr. Ostheimer." There were four red, hand-drawn arrows pointing to the obverse and reverse of two coins plated on the

cover, an 1870-S silver dollar and a high grade and very rare 1795 B-3 dollar. In the lower right corner and written in red was "My Estimate" and in blue "Realized." Was I excited!

I pulled the catalogue from the plastic cover and quickly went to the early dollar lots (which I had studied and by now knew by heart). Sure enough, there were notations in pencil and red ink. But even more exciting to me was a three-page, detailed auction settlement along with a paper adding-machine tape, marked "Cost Baldenhofer"! I asked Art where he gotten these catalogues and he stated, "From the Ostheimers—they had a home in Santa Fe." I then asked if he had anything else from the Ostheimers and he said this was all he had left. I bought both copies of the Merkin '68 Sale and went off to study one of them in more detail.

It didn't take long to compare the adding-machine tape to the detailed auction settlement, lot by lot. I now had what I'd been searching for all those years—a fairly good idea of the overall content of the Baldenhofer collection of early silver dollars by die marriage. The silver dollars in both the Baldenhofer and the Ostheimer collections went beyond just the early dollars. The collections were inclusive from early dollars to Morgan and Peace Dollars, including Leshner and Pattern Dollars.

I now knew Baldenhofer had an extensive collection of silver dollars, and I also had a pretty good idea of what silver dollars were in his collection at one time. I still did not know much else about Baldenhofer. I also did not know how or when the Ostheimers acquired his silver dollar collection.

In the year 2000 I set about trying to find someone related to the Ostheimers, hoping to find records of their collection, correspondence, and / or notes. I posted a request on a genealogy forum, and received a reply in the fall of 2000. It turned out that Mrs. Ostheimer was still alive and was living in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I began corresponding with Mrs. Ostheimer and asked her if she still had any items pertaining to her early dollar collecting. She told me she still had her notes from when she and Bolender were planning to write a book together! She also told me that she had all of her records in storage at a home in Florida, and that when she had a chance she would look for this. She eventually located the box and had it shipped to Santa Fe.

Mrs. Ostheimer later invited me to visit her home in Santa Fe. I was living in Colorado when I first began corresponding with her; I



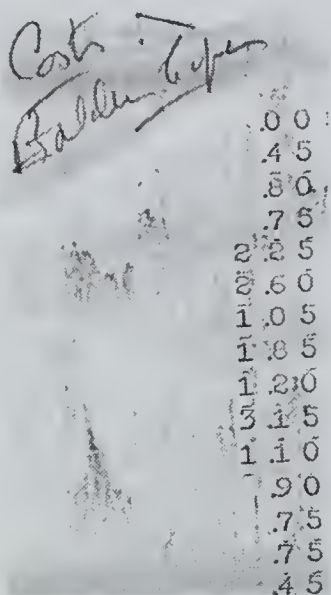


Figure 2. Part of an adding machine tape marked "Cost Baldenhofer." The amounts correspond to costs written by hand next to lots in the Ostheimers' copy of the Merkin '68 Sale catalogue. From this it was possible to figure out which lots came from the Baldenhofer collection.



Figure 3. Obverse and reverse of an almost uncirculated 1799/8 B-1 silver dollar. This was purchased by the author from a 1988 Bowers & Merena sale with no pedigree noted; in 1994 the author identified it as lot 272 in the Merkin '68 sale and therefore *ex* Ostheimer collection. From the adding machine tape and the Bolender invoice, it turns out that it was also *ex* Baldenhofer.

later changed jobs and moved to Wisconsin for two years. It was a few years before I was able to get to Santa Fe. Was it worth the wait! Mrs. Ostheimer had retained a large volume of files, correspondence, notes, and records of their collection, which I was able to acquire.

Included was correspondence from M.H. Bolender to the Ostheimers, leading up to the acquisition by Bolender and for the



Ostheimers of the Baldenhofer collection of silver dollars! I now had a detailed record of the Baldenhofer collection as it was in December 1959 when Bolender acquired it, including commentary on rarity and condition census, pedigree information, and the Ostheimers' cost for each specimen. For example, a 1794 dollar was listed on an invoice (typed on Bolender's personal stationery) as follows:

1794 B-1 Unc. Formerly in the collections of H. A. [sic] Granberg of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Waldo Newcomer of Baltimore, Maryland, banker, William H. Woodin, Col. Green, Jerome Kern. One of the 3 or 4 best known, very rare.

Our Cost \$6,250.

The listing was seven pages long, and ended with a proof 1921 Morgan Dollar at a cost of \$110. Interestingly, there were no Trade Dollars as part of this purchase. Perhaps Baldenhofer did not collect these, or maybe the Trade Dollars in Stack's 1955 Farish Baldenhofer sale were from the Baldenhofer collection (although this was not noted in the sale catalogue).

I now knew quite a bit regarding the Baldenhofer early silver dollar collection, but still not much about W. G. "Farish" Baldenhofer himself: so back to the Internet. I first learned from a Google search that W. G. Baldenhofer was connected to The Thompson Grinder Company in Ohio, and that the company had been founded by a C. Baldenhofer. Thus I posted the following on an Internet genealogy forum in April 2005:

W. G. "Farish" Baldenhofer, Clark Cty., Springfield, Ohio

I am looking for information on a W. G. "Farish" Baldenhofer of Springfield, Ohio (Clark County). In the 1950s he was working on a book with a Walter Breen.<sup>1</sup> He also was corresponding with a Frank Stirling of Baton Rouge, LA.

I believe he owned The Thompson Grinder Company. His father may have been a C. Baldenhofer, 1874-1953.

I have information to share. Thanks.

Approximately five months later, on September 14, 2005, I received an e-mail reply from a relative of Baldenhofer. She wrote, "I stumbled

---

<sup>1</sup> Baldenhofer and Breen were discussing publishing a book on the early silver dollars together, according to letters in the Ostheimers' possession.

MEMBER OF AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION NO. 2776

MEMBER OF  
LOS ANGELES COIN CLUB  
ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB  
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COIN CLUB  
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF  
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

MEMBER OF  
CENTRAL STATES  
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION  
CALIFORNIA STATE  
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION  
CHICAGO COIN CLUB

**M. H. BOLENDER**  
NUMISMATIST  
**DEALER IN RARE COINS AND PAPER MONEY**  
IN MY 54th NUMISMATIC YEAR

P. O. Box 43  
SAN MARINO, CALIF.

I certify that the U. S. Dollar Collection being sold to the Ostheimers contains the following coins, as described in detail, and that their present approximate fair value is as listed

1794 2-1' Unc. Formerly in the collections of H. A. Granberg of Oakkosh, Wisconsin, Waldo Newcomer of Baltimore, Maryland, banker, William H. Woodin, Col. Green, Jerome Kern. One of the 3 or 4 best known, very rare.

\$200.00 6250.-

12/67

W.D. Perkins

Figure 4. Top portion of the Bolender invoice for the purchase and sale of the Baldenhofer collection of early U.S. silver dollars to the Ostheimers. The sale took place in December 1959.

across your search for W. G. Baldenhofer. You mentioned that he wrote a book that was never published. I am really interested in your connection and I may also be able to help you with some info.”

A note dated September 16, 2005, had some good information on Baldenhofer as a businessman and a collector:

Bill Baldenhofer was my great uncle - my great aunt was actually my blood relative. Uncle Bill and Aunt Carol were great people, but they didn't really share their family business with the limited family that we have. Sadly, they had no children but my Dad was the only nephew on my Aunt's side and Uncle Bill had a niece on his side.

Tragically, there was a fire in the early sixties and they lost everything. I was in elementary school and remember seeing the site - a deputy was guarding the remains but they salvaged nothing to my knowledge. As you can imagine - it was the biggest loss in Clark County history - but they did bounce back and rebuild. They were also collectors of oriental antiques - Bill had done a great deal of business in Japan after the war and built up quite a collection. The fire took everything but after rebuilding on the spot - they collected again. I don't think he ever got back into coin collecting again but it sounds like he was a remarkable collector in his day. In 1978 they were gone for a few days and around \$100,000 of oriental antiques were stolen from the property. Some were recovered by the FBI in the Cleveland Museum...but the crime was never solved. All of the recovered antiques were donated to Wittenberg University in Springfield.

He was the owner of Thompson Grinder and had quite a few patents in his name. Your assumption of C. Baldenhofer as his father was correct - his name was Christian.

The only paper items I have from Uncle Bill would be post-fire. There is nothing concerning coins - mostly correspondence to antique dealers about the oriental collection. I believe Uncle Bill passed away around 1980... Aunt Carol died in 1990. She was a great lady and we were very close. I learned more about my Uncle Bill after he passed away than I ever knew while he was living. I believe he was a brilliant and giving man...and I am saddened that I didn't really get to know him closely.

Numismatists and collectors today can be thankful that the fire took place after the Stack's sale in 1955 and after Bolender purchased the Baldenhofer silver dollar collection in December 1959. On the other hand, Baldenhofer's records, notes, and correspondence appear to have been lost in the fire.



I learned from her that the Baldenhofer's first name was William (her "Uncle Bill"). I shared all the information I had with her, including information on the "Farish" Baldenhofer sale. In addition, she wrote to me on September 22, 2005:

I am not sure how the name Farish was used...but Dick Farish was a business partner of my Uncle I believe. My mom thinks he built their first house...but is still trying to remember more about him. Uncle Bill was very private about his business but she does remember his name....

I will ask my Uncle's niece for more info. about the Baldenhofer's. Ohio State (University) had a nice write up about my Uncle when he passed - I will try to find it as well.

A copy of an obituary I received lists a Richard C. Farish as an honorary pallbearer at the funeral. I assume this is the business partner referenced earlier and probably the origin of the "Farish" in the sale name of the Farish Baldenhofer catalogue. I'm not sure why this name for the sale was chosen. I sent an e-mail note on September 23, 2005, to Vicken Yegparian at Stack's asking if they might be able to help with any information on the consignor and this 1955 auction sale. Vicken replied:

It was actually Harvey Stack who went to Columbus to pick up the "Farish Baldenhofer Collection." He does not recall whether the silver dollars offered in the Farish Baldenhofer Catalogue belonged to the Baldenhofer Collection. According to Harvey, Stack's was instructed by Baldenhofer to use the name Farish Baldenhofer, but he doesn't remember the reason why.

I was able to acquire a photo of William G. Baldenhofer and two different copies of his obituary. Neither copy is dated or gives the source (newspaper or other). My contact noted, "I believe he died on March 8, 1980."

William G. Baldenhofer, author of more than 200 industrial patents related to high-speed, precision grinding machines and a pioneer in the computer operations of such machines, died at 7:05pm Saturday in Mercy Medical Center after several months of failing health. He was 76.

Baldenhofer, of 4222 Grant Rd., was the retired president of the former Thompson Grinder Co. and more recently was a consultant with Kraft Associates of Springfield.

He was born in Springfield on September 17, 1903, the son of Christian and Dora Ganser Baldenhofer. He served on the board of directors



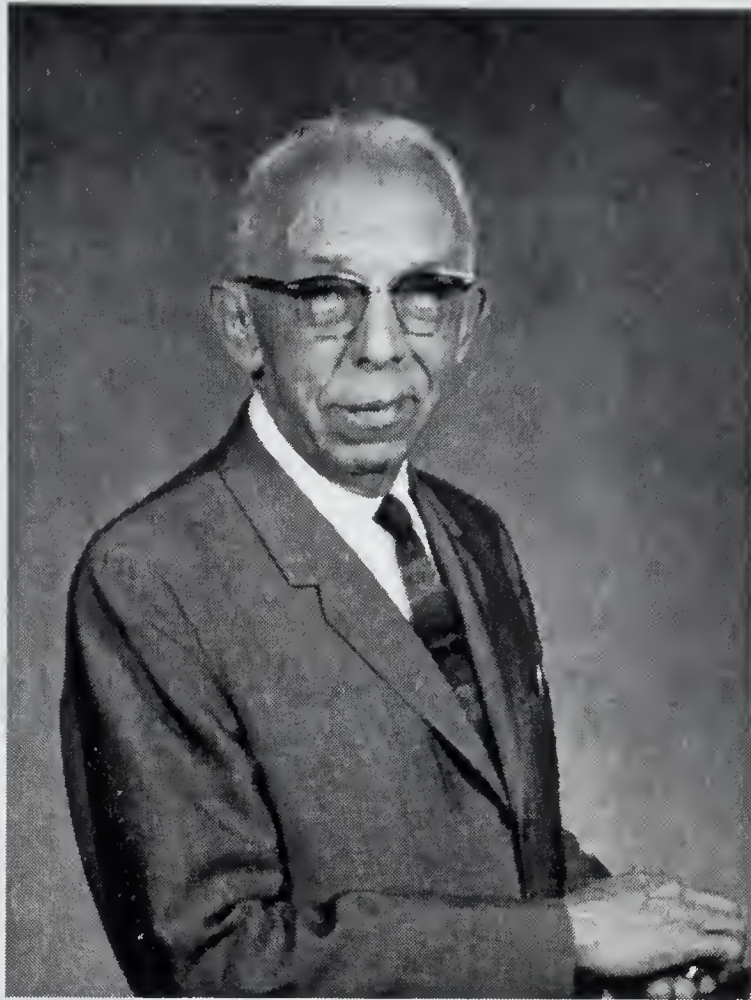


Figure 5. Photo of William G. Baldenhofer obtained from a niece. Baldenhofer resided in Springfield, Ohio, all his life.

of St. John's Nursing and Convalescing Center and was a member of St. John's Evangelical Church; the Rotary Club; Clark Lodge No. 101, F.& A.M.; the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Dayton, and the Antioch Temple AAONMS of Dayton. He was a 1926 graduate of Ohio State University, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in mechanical engineering. He was a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and served as a lieutenant colonel with the U.S. Army during World War II.

His father founded Thompson Grinder Co. in 1905 and the firm became recognized as one of the world's largest manufacturers of machine tools in its field. Following his father's death in 1953, William was elected president and general manager.

He had one brother (deceased at the time of his death) and a sister.

Since this time I also acquired copies of the notes and correspondence of Frank Stirling of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. There were

numerous letters from W. G. Baldenhofer (signed "W. G. Baldenhofer"). The majority were typed on stationery from The Thompson Grinder Company, Springfield, Ohio. Most pertained to the early silver dollars, both buying and selling selected silver dollars with Stirling.

In conclusion, it appears the Stack's 1955 *Farish Baldenhofer Collection of U.S. Coins* sale used a name created by William G. Baldenhofer, a consignor to this sale. I believe the Baldenhofer-consigned coins were owned by Baldenhofer and were not partially owned by Richard C. Farish, Baldenhofer's business partner. How or why Baldenhofer came up with this name for the sale will likely remain a mystery.

Baldenhofer was a very successful businessman and had the means to form collections of both coins and antiques. He sold his extensive collection of silver dollars to Alfred and Jacque Ostheimer via M. H. Bolender in December 1959. At a minimum, Baldenhofer also collected high-quality Liberty Walking half dollars and \$10.00 gold eagles.

Get on Board with *The E-Sylum*  
**the weekly e-mail newsletter of the  
Numismatic Bibliomania Society**

Hundreds of bibliophiles around the U.S. and the world subscribe to this free publication, containing news and information about NBS and numismatic literature in general.

To subscribe, write to Wayne Homren at  
whomren@coinlibrary.com

For more information, see the NBS web site at  
<http://www.coinbooks.org/>

## Book Review

*Comitia Americana and Related Medals: Underappreciated Monuments to Our Heritage*, by John W. Adams and Anne E. Bentley. xv, 285 pp. Crestline, Calif.: George Frederick Kolbe, 2007. \$135 plus postage \$10 (U.S.) or \$25 (elsewhere).

The central focus of this book comprises the eleven medals voted by Congress to George Washington, John Eager Howard, Daniel Morgan, William Washington, Nathanael Greene, John Paul Jones, Henry Lee, Horatio Gates, John Stewart, Anthony Wayne, and François-Louis Teissèdre de Fleury in the American War of Independence. As well as commemorating each of these officers, the medals illustrate an allusion or scene from each of the seven actions—siege of Boston, battle of the Cowpens, battle of Eutaw Springs, naval action off Flamborough Head, battle of Paulus Hook, battle of Saratoga, and assault on Stony Point—and each one is inscribed *Comitia Americana*. To these eleven medals, the authors have added three portrait medals of Benjamin Franklin, the *Libertas Americana* medal, and the Diplomatic medal.

These medals all date to the last quarter of the eighteenth century, and most of them are of French manufacture, being the work of the Parisian medallists August Dupré, Pierre-Simon-Benjamin Duvivier and Nicolas-Marie Gatteaux. Surviving state papers and the personal documents of some of the leading participants allow the progress for the commissioning of these medals to be closely followed. Given the events which they commemorate and the diplomatic and political ramifications arising from their commission, the story of their making provides an intimate portrait of a nation in its formative years. This all contributes to a story that is as fascinating in the broader historical context as it is in the more specialized area of numismatics.

The introduction provides an overview of the subject, while the first chapter looks at the *Comitia Americana* medallic project in some detail. Forming much of the early discussion in the book, and no doubt a



catalyst for its writing, is a cased set of eleven silver medals, incorporating nine of the *Comitia Americana* series, together with the *Libertas Americana* and one of the Franklin medals, dated 1786. The importance of this set is its impeccable pedigree and provenance, having been brought over to the United States from France by Thomas Jefferson in 1790 for presentation to George Washington. As one of the principal sponsors of the *Comitia* medals, Jefferson played a leading and enthusiastic role in the commissioning of the medals during his five-year stay in Paris in the 1780s. But as we come to learn, support for the project was to diminish, following Jefferson's recall by Washington to become Secretary of State.

The shipment of the medals back to the United States by Jefferson, along with his household and other possessions, and their narrow survival from fire on board ship, makes for an absorbing read. After their presentation to George Washington, the good fortune allowing the medals to escape disaster continued to hang on the slenderest of threads: following Washington's death and the distribution of his estate, they managed to survive being pawned not once but twice. The trail continues until, finally, they entered the safe haven of the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1874.

Anne Bentley, the MHS's present curator and responsible for its numismatic collection since 1984, and co-author of this book, has published on several aspects of eighteenth-century numismatics, including papers on the Massachusetts Pine Tree copper penny and the Columbia-Washington medal. Her collaborator, John W. Adams, an investment banker by trade, is well known for his work in eighteenth-century numismatics, and among his more recently published books are those on the Indian Peace medals of King George III, and the medals of John Law and the Mississippi System.

The authors examine Jefferson's role in the acquisition of the medals in some detail, from which one learns of the truly ambitious scale of the *Comitia Americana* project, with plans to distribute some 215 sets of medals within the United States and a further 110 sets in Europe. Each set was to be housed in a bespoke wooden fitted case, for presentation to reigning European sovereigns, universities, and other institutions and individuals. Jefferson's recall to America from Paris marked a fading of his interest and the window of opportunity for getting the medals

produced before his departure—and by what were widely considered to be the finest medallists of the day—was fast diminishing. Reflecting on the episode thirty years later, Jefferson sought to place responsibility for its completion in other hands. This is questioned by Adams and Bentley, who conclude, frankly, that he was “wholly responsible for the aborting of a well-conceived and fully funded project.”

Despite the ambitious scale and funding for the project, very few sets survive as original striking—none of which are complete—and they, along with the other later sets or groupings are examined in Chapter 2. One of these sets is in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna and its constituent medals had been acquired, apparently, at different times, or so the disparate museum acquisition numbers suggest. However, faced with an unerring consistency in the quality, strike, and patina of these medals, Adams and Bentley question the random means by which they are supposed to have entered the Vienna cabinet. They deftly elucidate the likely background to the acquisition of these medals, having first looked at and dismissed other possible routes. This masterful piece of deduction forms a blueprint for the way other conclusions have been reached elsewhere in the book, especially where manuscript evidence is either absent or not wholly reliable.

The following eleven chapters deal with each of the *Comitia Americana* medals in turn, first providing a brief historical background to the particular military engagement and the vote by Congress for the award of a medal, and then looking at questions of metrology, provenance, and numbers. It begins with the most celebrated recipient, George Washington and his “Washington before Boston” medal by Duvivier. By good fortune, the gold medal survives and we are treated to a sumptuous color-plate reproduction of this treasure, which is in Boston Public Library, as indeed we are to the story relating to its near-loss at the hands of a bank robber.

Few of the other *Comitia Americana* medals survive in gold and, indeed, very few original striking even in bronze or silver were made, but dies for many of the medals were latterly copied and re-used. Most helpfully, a chronology and the die progression and usage for each of these issues is provided, with particular regard to later striking, and the discussion also includes the question of casts and electrotypes. Although illustrations include a number of *Comitia Americana* medals

from the Kunsthistorisches Museum's set in Vienna and from other collections, it might have been useful, for comparative purposes, to have had an illustration of each and every one of those in the Massachusetts Historical Society, showing both obverse and reverse, alongside the relevant chapter. Tantalizingly, we are treated only to a mid-distant illustration of this set in its wooden case, showing just one side of each of the eleven medals.

Following on from the chapters dealing with the individual *Comitia Americana* medals are those covering the three Franklin medals, the *Libertas Americana*, and the Diplomatic medal. Much discussion is given over to the perplexing "Franklin of Philadelphia" medal dated 1777, with its three-quarter facing image of the polymath. Unsigned and offering no clear clue as to whom it can be attributed and where and why it might have been made, this medal is a real enigma. Having examined all the issues relating to identification and precisely why this "secret medal" was made, the authors conclude by saying that "if those who produced it did not want their efforts known, it is not likely that we will pick up their trail more than two hundred years later." This medal is somewhat out on a limb, but bringing it center stage allows debate from a larger audience. And with the gauntlet having been provocatively thrown down, it remains to be seen for exactly how long "Franklin of Philadelphia" can keep its secret.

The other two Franklin medals, both by Dupré and dated 1784 and 1786, also receive a thorough analysis. So too does the celebrated *Libertas Americana*, its chapter including an illustration of the rarely-seen "Explication"—the printed sheet accompanying each example of the medal that Benjamin Franklin distributed. How many of these precious documents survive is not known, but the number must be small and its inclusion in the book is a bonus. Adams and Bentley have much to say about this most iconic of medals, and such is its current status that despite being among the most common of the medals under discussion, it has become one of the more expensive. Clearly, rarity alone counts for little. The imposing Diplomatic medal constitutes the last of the chapters discussing the individual medals and the story relating to its background is told in fascinating detail. We follow, for example, the machinations of the committee convened to oversee its design, which was returned for changes on several occasions. The two concluding



chapters of the book deal with the movements and locations of the dies, and examine technological application in eighteenth-century medal making, with some useful accompanying plates, all of which is hugely helpful in understanding these processes.

The index to the book is well arranged, although confining itself largely to the main players and subject matter. Thus, some characters have been excluded such as the splendidly named banker, Mr Grand (pp. 60, 210, et al.); Francis Hopkinson, a consultant on the design of the Diplomatic medal and designer of a national flag adopted by Congress in 1777 (p. 202); and Jean-Martin Renaud, a shadowy artist, whose medallic portraits provide signed evidence of his work (p. 112). As such, someone referring to the index might well conclude from their absence that they do not constitute part of the story.

The book is a high-quality production, with much attention to detail. Its end paper provides a detailed summary relating to the paper and printing used. One of the things that we learn from this is that the lettering and text typeface is an adaptation of the Richard Austin types made for the London publisher John Bell in 1788.

This is far from the first occasion on which the *Comitia Americana* series has been the focus of study. The most celebrated work on the subject was that written and self-published in New York in 1878 by Joseph Florimond Loubat, *Medallic History of the United States of America, 1776-1876*. This monumental survey covers not only the *Comitia Americana* series, but many other medals, and includes a remarkable amount of manuscript material, much of it in the form of letters, relating to the medals. Loubat's work is unquestionably a great achievement, and its material is widely used by Adams and Bentley, who refer to it as the foundation for all subsequent writings on the subject. They also observe that Loubat's work has never received the adulation that it deserves.

However, if one were looking for why that might be the case, the appearance of this new book and the way in which it approaches the subject goes some way to providing the answer. Loubat's work is a store of great material evidence, but it is as dry as dust in the way it treats the subject. Getting to the material, although not exactly an uphill task, provides no diversionary pleasures, as might be gained from interesting illustrations, or from a line of narrative that occasionally strays off

the academic path, or otherwise engages the reader in an entertaining fashion.

*Comitia Americana* scores well in such matters. The book contains a great deal of statistical information and manuscript evidence, but this is balanced and indeed lightened by a narrative which is immediate in its charm, yet never irreverent to its subject matter. The read is both entertaining and informative, and there are times when you feel yourself being drawn into the unfolding political and diplomatic dramas, so strongly do they play in the origination of these medals. The illustrations are predominantly in color and of consistent quality, and many are previously unpublished. The frontispiece, showing a terra-cotta model for the reverse of Dupré's *Libertas Americana* is as enticing a taster as one could hope to be offered. All in all, this is a major contribution to an illustrious passage in United States medallic history, related with considerable passion and enthusiasm.

Christopher Eimer

AN EXCITING NEW  
228-page HARDBOUND BOOK

***“HENRY VOIGT AND OTHERS  
INVOLVED WITH  
AMERICA’S EARLY COINAGE”***

**by Karl Moulton**

ordering and contact information at:

**[www.coincats.com](http://www.coincats.com)**

## Numismatic Bibliomania Society

### *President*

Pete Smith  
2424 4th Street NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

### *Vice-President*

Dan Hamelberg  
Champagne, IL  
danhamelberg@aol.com

### *Secretary/Treasurer*

David M. Sundman  
P.O. Box 82  
Littleton, NH 03561  
dsundman@littletoncoin.com

### *Board of Governors*

John W. Adams, 99 High Street, Suite 1200, Boston, MA 02110

john.adams@canaccordadams.com

Dan Friedus, Ann Arbor, MI dan1737@umich.edu

Joel Orosz, 4300 Old Field Trail, Kalamazoo, MI 49008 joelorosz@aol.com

P. Scott Rubin, P.O. Box 6885, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 numislit@msn.com

W. David Perkins, Centennial, CO wdperki@attglobal.net

David Sklow, P.O. Box 50231, Colorado Springs, CO 80949 sdsklow@aol.com

### *Editor, The Asylum*

David Yoon, 41-22 54 Street #9, Woodside, NY 11377 dyoon@ix.netcom.com

### ADVERTISING RATES FOR 2007

Full page	\$60
Inside front, inside or outside back cover	\$65
Half page	\$35

Discounts for multiple-issue advertisers are available. For rates, please contact John Adams (john.adams@canaccordadams.com).

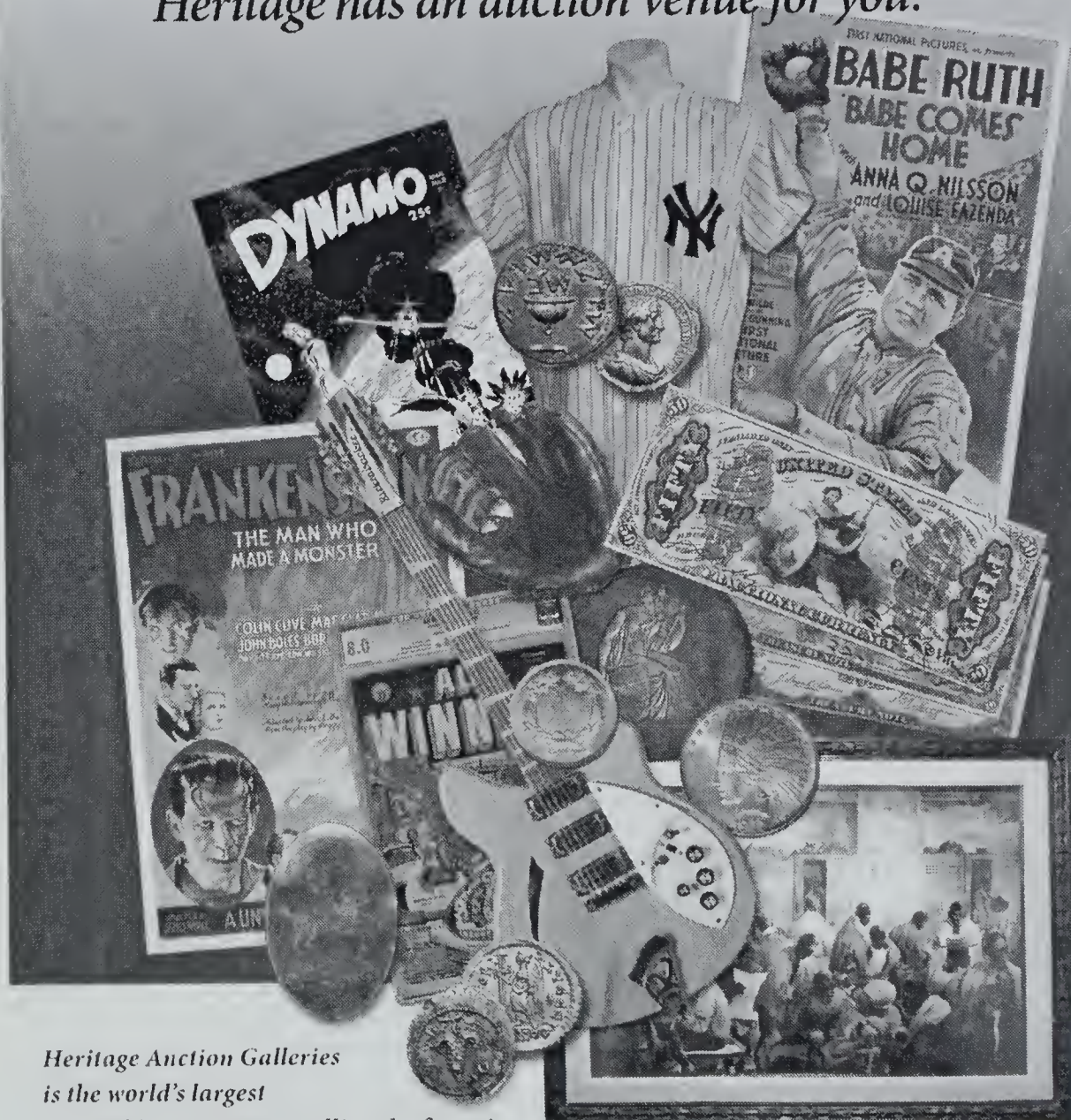
The *Asylum* (ISSN 1552-1931) is published quarterly. Manuscripts should be sent to the editor by e-mail or on CD. Authors, please put your name(s) on all submitted material.

All accepted manuscripts become the property of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. For more information, please contact the editor.

**NBS Membership:** \$15.00 annual dues in the United States, \$20.00 elsewhere. Members receive all available issues of the current volume. Requests for membership and change of address should be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer.



*Whatever you collect, whatever you have to sell,  
Heritage has an auction venue for you.*



*Heritage Auction Galleries  
is the world's largest  
collectibles auctioneer, selling the finest in:*

- Coins • Currency • Comics and Comic Art • Americana • Rare Books • Manuscripts •
- Fine Art • Decorative Art • Entertainment Memorabilia • Jewelry & Fine Timepieces •
- Sports Collectibles • Vintage Movie Posters •

Call today for more information: 800-872-6467

**HERITAGE** HA.com  
*Auction Galleries*

The World's Largest Collectibles Auctioneer

Annual Sales Exceeding \$500 Million • 275,000+ Online Registered Bidder-Members

800-872-6467 • or visit HA.com

3500 Maple Avenue, 17th Floor • Dallas, Texas 75219-3941

214-528-3500 • FAX: 214-443-8425 • e-mail: [Consign@HA.com](mailto:Consign@HA.com)



To receive a complimentary book or catalog of your choice, register online at [HA.com/ASY6399](http://HA.com/ASY6399) or call 866-835-3243 and mention reference #ASY6399



**AMERICA'S OLDEST NUMISMATIC  
BOOK AND COIN DEALERS**

founded in 1932  
first auction sale in 1935  
at the same location since 1953

Stack's maintains a full stock of most standard numismatic references and can obtain most other titles as needed. We publish new works on coins as well as reprint others. We stock important out of print auction sale catalogues.

Stack's regularly publishes lists of the books we have in stock. If you have not already received one, please write for your free copy, mentioning you saw us here.

Our most recent publications include:

*The Numismatic Legacy of the Jews.* 2000. \$125

*The George C. Perkins Collection.* 2001. \$125

*The Joseph Brobston Collection.* (repr.) 1999. \$250

*The Philip Showers Collection.* (repr.) 1999. \$75

Stack's. A name you know and a name you can trust.



**STACK'S RARE COINS**

123 West 57th Street

New York, NY 10019

Tel. 212.582.2580

Fax 212.582.1946

Email to [info@stacks.com](mailto:info@stacks.com)

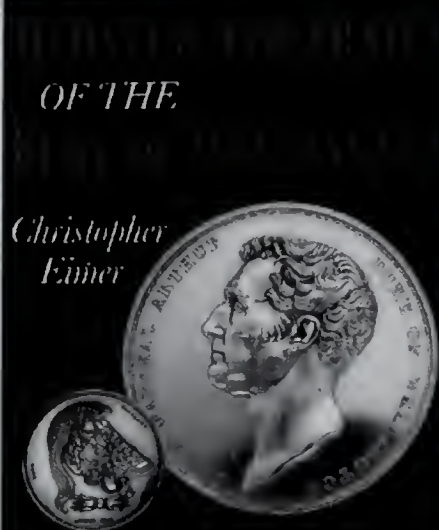
See us on the web at [www.stacks.com](http://www.stacks.com)



**BRITISH  
COMMEMORATIVE  
MEDALS**  
and their values



Christopher Eimer



**CHRISTOPHER EIMER**

P.O. BOX 352, LONDON, NW11 7RF  
ENGLAND, UNITED KINGDOM  
(tel. 44 - 208 458 9933)

-----  
[art@christophereimer.co.uk](mailto:art@christophereimer.co.uk)

•  
BUYING AND SELLING  
COMMEMORATIVE AND HISTORICAL  
MEDALS  
•

MEDALS FOR SALE CAN BE VIEWED AT

[www.christophereimer.co.uk](http://www.christophereimer.co.uk)

